Highlands
The Communicator
FREE

Oct. 30 - Nov. 12, 2008

Haliburton County's Good News Fun Magazine

Vol. 8 Issue 2

Winter Circulation
8,000

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

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-Richard Harris Barham

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Minden Legion Remembrance Day Parade Nov 9th

Minden Remembrance Day Ceremonies conducted by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636 will be held Sunday, November 9. Two memorial services will be held one at Minden United Church at 11:00 a.m. and an 11:15 a.m. service at St Paul's Anglican Church, Minden.

Beginning at 2:00 p.m. the parade with the Legion Colour Party will begin at the municipal parking lot and march to the Cenotaph for the traditional wreath laying ceremony.

At the conclusion of the event there will be a reception at the Minden Legion Hall open to the public. The Royal Canadian Legion is located on Highway 35 North opposite the intersection of Highway 121 to Haliburton Village.

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13th Annual Christmas Toy & Food Drive November 10-30th

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Come up with an inventive way of collecting donations this year such as asking your Christmas party guests to bring a non-perishable food item over instead of a gift!

You can collect gifts at your place of business, with your family and with your friends – it's as easy as that! So rise to the challenge and find out why it's truly better to give than receive.

Last year, Haliburton County showed tremendous support for this initiative, making the 2007 Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) 2007 Christmas Challenge the most successful one to date.

So get involved and help make this year's drive even bigger and better! This is a great way of helping to make sure that each family in Haliburton County has a gift under the tree and a good holiday meal to celebrate all the things that makes this season special.

For more information visit www.hchba.ca, call Aggie Tose at 705 457-2629 or email info@hchba.ca.

Happy Halloween

Internationally Renowned Child Psychiatrist Coming to Haliburton

"The health and creativity of a community is renewed each generation through its children" (Dr. Jean Clinton).

On the evening of Tuesday November 11/08, the Child and Youth Planning Table of Haliburton County in collaboration with the Trillium Lakelands District School Council is offering a free community event for all parents in Haliburton County entitled "Building Positive Relationships with My Child."

The community will be welcoming a locally, provincially, nationally and internationally renowned advocate for children's issues. Dr. Jean Clinton is a Child Psychiatrist working at McMaster University and McMaster Hospital. Her special interest lies in the crucial importance of relationships, early child development, brain development, parenting and asset building. Dr. Clinton will be speaking about "Building Positive Relationships" with our children and youth, acknowledging that that we must develop the whole child, by recognizing the importance of belonging and that relationships are central

This forum is specifically directed towards parents, grandparents, and caregivers, of children and youth between the ages of 0 to 18 years. The event is occurring at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in the Northern Lights Pavilion, beginning at 6:30pm and ending at 9:00pm. It is the hope of the organizers that as many parents within Haliburton County are able to attend. If you require assistance with child care and travel costs, in order to attend please call 457-5345 ext 610 or email info@pointintime.ca by October 31/08.

About Dr. Jean Clinton, MD FRCP (C)

Jean Clinton is an Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neuroscience at McMaster, division of Child Psychiatry. She is on staff at McMaster Children's Hospital and is an Associate in the Departments of Family Medicine at McMaster as well as an Associate in the Department of Child Psychiatry, University of Toronto and Sick Children's Hospital. As an Associate Member of the Offord Centre for Child Studies, she leads the "Friends of the Offord Centre" Initiative, and as well, sits on the "Circle of Friends for Children's Mental Health Ontario."

Currently, she is a member of Hamilton's Best Start Network leading the Primary Care Engagement Strategy for the enhanced 18-month-well-baby visit . She sits on the Provincial Implementation commitee and was a member of the "Getting It Right at 18-Months Expert Panel" for the Provincial Best Start Initiative. She is a Fellow of Dr. Fraser Mustard's Council for Early Child Development, Board member of Voices for Children, and INvest in Kids.

Dr. Clinton is renowned locally, provincially, nationally and more recently internationally as an advocate for children's issues. Her special interest lies in the crucial importance of relationships, early child development, brain development, parenting and asset building. Jean champions the development of a system of early learning and child care for all young children which she believes plays a vital role in promoting healthy child development. She is equally committed to ensuring that children's and youths' needs and voices are heard and respected and she actively promotes the celebration of National Child Day in Hamilton and other communities.

A Little Bit of Everything

Lest We Forget

In the turmoil the world has been experiencing lately, have you stopped to think about how bad things might be now IF people had not fought for our freedoms all those years ago in WWI, WWII and The Korean War?

We at A Little Bit of Everything want to thank all veterans and their families for the service they gave us so many years ago. We also won't forget the ultimate sacrifice so many men and women gave when they paid for our freedom with their lives.

So, on November 11th take a few extra minutes to thank the veterans and their families, and remember those who did not make it home. Too, don't forget the people in the armed forces today who are around the world protecting our freedoms.

What we have, we owe it all to you. Thank You.

Debbie, Ira & Joanne

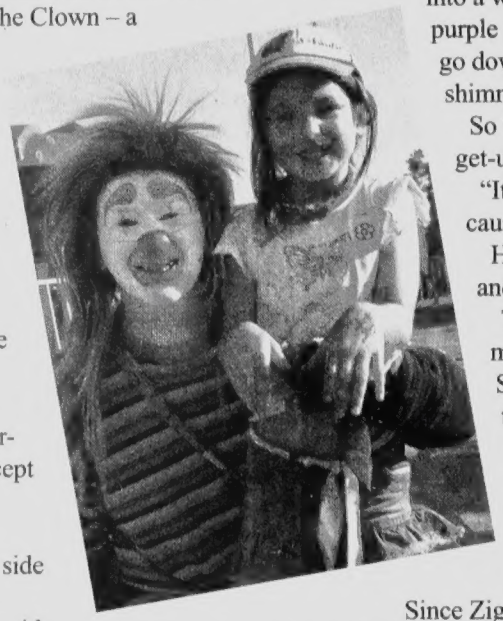
Beside IGA & Home Hardware in Minden (705) 286-3741

By Mark Arike

Enter Ziggy's World!

Kids Can Expect Joy and Laughter With Haliburton County's Newest Clown

It takes Paul Thompson about an hour to put on his make-up and get all dressed up in his costume. Once his transformation is complete, he's no longer Paul; he's Ziggy the Clown – a colourful character who wants to put a smile on your face.



"I've always wanted to be a clown," says Thompson, who has worked as an aide at Wee Care in Haliburton for the past eight years. "One of the things that I like about clowns is that when you think about laughter, or sadness, or anger, it's basically a universal language. Clowns have all those emotions in them and they're able to display them," he says.

Ever since he can remember, Thompson says he's been interested in the theatrics surrounding clowning, the circus and the concept behind becoming someone else.

He explains how his wife helped him to seriously consider taking on clowning as a side profession.

"Four years ago when I first got together with my wife Bonnie she hired a clown for me for my Birthday because she knew the interest I had in it. This past summer I was at the Rotary Carnival in Minden and Gooderham Horseshoe Days. I also did my first Birthday."

As Paul, he was born and raised in Toronto. He moved up to Haliburton County at the age of 18 to help out his parents with an establishment they owned called The West Guilford Restaurant. He was also a caregiver to his grandmother for 11 years.

Thompson had experience working with kids even prior to his job at Wee Care.

"In 1984 I worked at the Pine River Group Home in the West Guilford area for two years," he said.

Once Thompson takes on the Ziggy persona, it's like stepping into a whole new world. He sports a long, shiny purple wig, a black shirt with stripped stockings that go down to his hands, rainbow motif pants and a shimmering purple armband.

So why is purple one of the primary colours of his get-up?

"It's a way of honouring my son Matthew because purple is his favourite colour," he explains.

He also sports white, red and purple face-paint and a typical red clown nose finishes off the look.

Thompson says that the famous English musician David Bowie - also known as "Ziggy Stardust" – influenced him when he was trying to come up with his clown identity.

"I wanted to find my character and what made me the clown I wanted to be," he says. "When I saw the purple wig I thought of the old David Bowie, 'Ziggy Stardust'. So right away I thought I'd call myself Ziggy."

Since Ziggy is fairly a new clown, he's still discovering himself and finding out what works and what doesn't.

"I consider myself a newborn babe in clowning. I'm not a professional but I'm very serious about it," he says. At one point, he tried to his change his voice, but found it very difficult to keep that change in sound consistent.

"My wife said, 'You kind of sound like a clown already so why not use your regular voice,' so that's what I did."

Though he has no professional training in the clowning field, Thompson did take a course at Sir Sanford Fleming on the subject.

"I took the clowning course two years ago. But that type of clowning wasn't my style. The type of clown then was more into theatre and I preferred to do Birthdays."

Some of the things that Ziggy likes to incorporate into his performances with kids include magic, whoopee cushions and temporary tattoos.

"I do need to add to my magic props, but again, this is where I'm growing and evolving," he explains. "I also try to use some words or phrases with kids that they can

Ziggy cont'd.. pg. 5...

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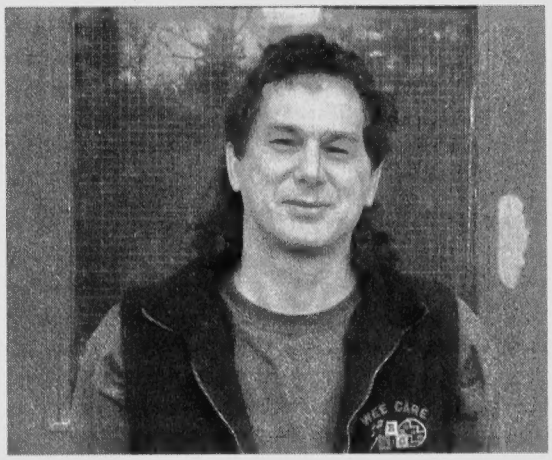
Ziggy the Clown



identify with like 'that's cool', or 'that's awesome.' I try to be a down-to-earth kind of guy."

Thompson describes what it was like to go out as Ziggy for the first time in public at this summer's Rotary Carnival in Minden.

"I think it went very well. Ziggy himself was very shy and not as much of a clown as I had liked him to be, but that's me discovering just who Ziggy is."

In developing the Ziggy character, he looks forward to accomplishing a few goals.

"Because I'm an introverted person, I'm trying to open up more," he says. "I'm trying to achieve being an animated figure in the flesh."

Not only does he intend to make kids laugh, but Ziggy is here to bring joy to anyone he can.

"I remember when I was dropping my son off at Todd's Independent and I was driving to do my performance in Gooderham. A lady was driving by me and when she looked at me she just burst out laughing."

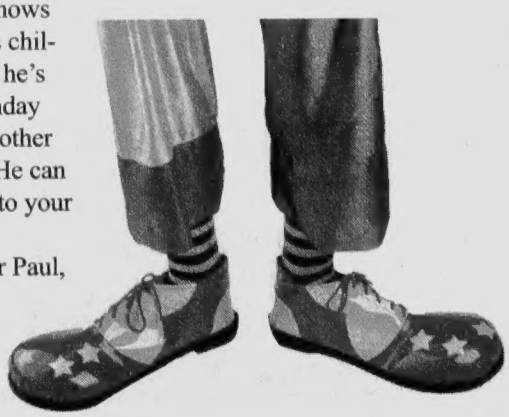
And being able to make others laugh simply by looking at them is something that Ziggy is quite proud of.

"I think that's really neat," he says. "That's what I think makes clowns special. They can bring laughter and a smile to a person's face."

Because he still works full-time at Wee Care, Thompson says that the best time to acquire his services would be on the weekends or evenings.

Ziggy's current shows are catered towards children ages 5-10 and he's open to doing Birthday parties, events and other special occasions. He can also bring a piñata to your party.

To reach Ziggy or Paul, give him a call at home on evenings at 705 286-4962.



THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

For most of the general population this holiday is known as Halloween and is a night for dressing up, telling ghost stories, having spooky parties, trick-or-treating and pumpkin carving. What most people don't know is that Halloween is actually based on an ancient Celtic holiday known as Samhain (pronounced "sow wan"), which means "summer's end".

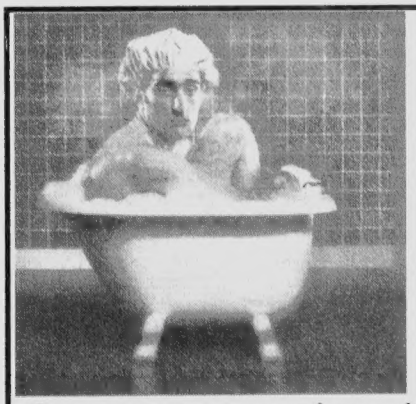
It was the end of the Celtic year, starting at sundown on October 31st and going through to sundown November 1st. It was a night to honor loved ones that had passed on since the veil between their realm and ours is at it's thinnest on that night.

Celebrated for centuries by the Celts of old, Witches and many other nature based religions, it is the most magical night of the year. It is the Witches' New Year, and the Last Harvest. Although the religious significance of it has passed for the general public, Halloween is a "magical" night for all!

On this magical night, glowing jack-o-lanterns, carved from turnips or gourds, were set on porches and in windows to welcome deceased loved ones, but also to act as protection against malevolent spirits. Burning lumps of coal were used inside as a source of light, later to be replaced by candles.

When European settlers, particularly the Irish, arrived in American they found the native pumpkin to be larger and easier to carve, it seemed the perfect choice for the jack-o-lanterns. Halloween didn't really catch on big in this country until the late 1800's and has been celebrated in so many ways ever since!

Pumpkins are indigenous to the western hemisphere and were completely unknown in Europe before the time of Columbus. In 1584, the French explorer Jacques Cartier reported from the St. Lawrence region that he had found "gros melons", which was translated into English as "ponpions," or pumpkins. In fact, pumpkins have been grown in America for over 5,000 years. Native Americans called pumpkins "isquotersquash."



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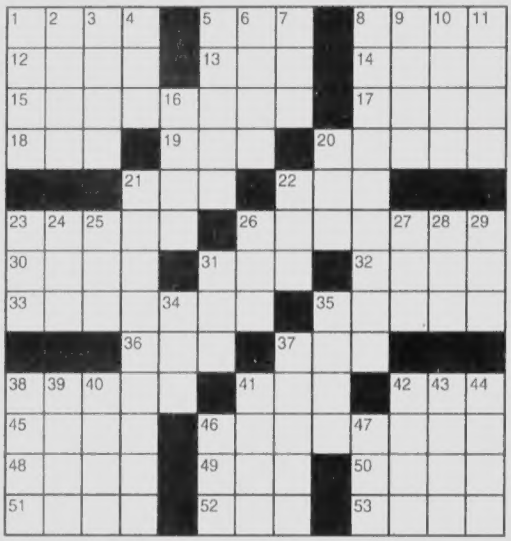

ACROSS
1 Oxidation result
5 Police officer
8 Runs for exercise
12 Neighborhood
13 Kyoto cummerbund
14 Lotion additive
15 Scouts' festival
17 Carriage
18 Clay, now
19 Jailer's implement
20 Scrub a NASA mission
21 Pickle container
22 Bikini half
23 English composition
26 Get back
30 Paper quantity
31 Get a glimpse of
32 Helper
33 "Nobody - the Spanish Inquisition!"
35 "Don Juan" writer
36 Sauce source
37 Shell-game need
38 Seabird of the gannet family
41 Snip
42 Historic time
45 Therefore
46 Kingston resident
48 Fix a hole
49 Cleopatra's slayer
50 Midi terminus
51 Coaster
52 Petrol
53 Stereo forerunner

DOWN
1 Eastern prince
2 Kazakhstan river
3 Half (Pref.)
4 Paper doll's dress feature
5 Apple gizmo
6 Do what you're told
7 Chart format
8 New Orleans recipe
9 Medley
10 No stay-at-home
11 Faxed
16 Suitable
20 Curved line
21 Daniel Craig role
22 Spelldown
23 Before
24 Gender
25 Tree fluid
26 In medias -
27 Melody
28 Altar affirmative
29 Chaps
31 Pigs' digs
34 Coquettish
35 Alpha follower
37 Some women's shoes
38 Hospital furniture
39 By word of mouth
40 Shrek is one
41 House, to Jose
42 Reverberation
43 Picnic hamperer
44 Domini preceder
46 Binge
47 Tenet

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Heightened Enforcement This Hunting Season

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Bancroft District, will be conducting heightened enforcement activity this fall. In particular, from October 20 to November 16, during the moose and deer gun hunts, conservation officers will be checking hunters regarding hunter orange requirements and safe use of firearms. The moose season is from October 20-25 and the deer gun hunt is from November 3 to16 in the Bancroft and Minden areas.

Fines range from $100 to $250 for offences involving these matters. In more serious cases, offenders could face fines of up to $25,000 or imprisonment, or both.

To ensure a safe and lawful hunt, hunters are reminded of the following:

All hunters must wear solid hunter orange clothing (minimum of 400 sq. inches) and a hunter orange cap, except during a "bows-only" season. Mesh type construction and camouflage vests are not acceptable.

All persons in possession of a firearm for the purpose of hunting should not handle or discharge it or cause it to be handled or discharged without due care for persons or property.

Any hunting injury caused by the discharge of a firearm resulting in medical treatment by a physician must be reported to a conservation officer.

If you are in an area inhabited by wildlife or on the way to or from an area inhabited by wildlife, you cannot have a loaded firearm in on a vehicle, ATV, motorboat or aircraft. It is illegal to discharge a firearm from any of these modes of transportation.

You cannot shoot from, down or across a public road.

You may not have in your possession, in an area usually inhabited by wildlife ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset, a firearm unless it is encased and unloaded.

Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, a firearm includes air guns, bows and crossbows, along with traditional rifles and shotguns. A firearm is considered loaded if there is a cartridge in the chamber or a magazine that is attached to the firearm. Bows, crossbows, and muzzleloaders have various definitions of 'loaded'.

Conservation officers may also enforce Small Vessel Regulations and sections of the Liquor Licence Act. Anglers and hunters are reminded that alcohol affects the ability to safely handle firearms and motorized vehicles or vessels and increases the risk of exposure while in the outdoors.

For more information on hunting regulations, please consult the Hunting Regulation Summary 2008-2009 available from licence issuers, ServiceOntario/ Government Information Centres and on the ministry's website at ontario.ca/hunting.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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It's Happening in Kinmount!

by Lynne Kilby

Hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving weekend. As the leaves fall and our days cool and shorten, something in the air makes Thanksgiving a time to reflect and count our blessings. While doing just that, it occurred to me that I am frequently stopped by an amazing number of people who express delight with this column. Therefore, on their behalf, now is the perfect time to give **heartfelt thanks** to the **Highlands Communicator** who allows us the opportunity to promote our area through their publication.

Each year **John Austin & Sons, Castle Building Centre** in Kinmount, donates $1,000 to a community group. The 1st Kinmount Unit of Sparks, Brownies, & Guides are thrilled to have been selected as this year's recipient and wish to extend a **GIGANTIC THANK YOU** for this much-appreciated donation. These funds will aid in offsetting costly registration fees therefore ensuring opportunity for membership for local girls.

Calling all Kids - **Kinmount Minor Hockey** will soon be back in action! Kinmount Knights **registration** takes place **Nov. 1 & 2 & Nov. 8 & 10.** Sign up sheets are available at the front cash at Kinmount Freshmart. **Cost to play** for the entire season is only **$25.00**. The season begins with ball hockey until the ice is in (usually around Christmas). All ages are invited to register. Coaches and volunteers are also needed. For more information, call 488-2211.

Due to lack of assistants, **Kinmount Martial Arts** has cancelled Karate Classes for the present time. If this changes by January, classes will resume at that time. Karate Classes are presently available in Coboconk at Ridgewood P.S. with Sensei Vaughan Richardson.

Who doesn't need some good old gut busting belly laughter once in a while? On Sept. 27 the audience at Kinmount Legion enjoyed a delicious **Dinner and Fun Fashion/Variety Show** that featured legion members as impersonators accompanied by songs from the 40's to present. If you missed it, the legion intends to hold this hilarious event again next year.

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 1 - **Fowl Supper** served by Galway Hall Committee at Galway Hall, Galway Road 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Call 488-2217 for more info.

Nov. 8 - **Fowl Supper** served by the Ladies Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441, 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 488-2307 for more info.

Nov. 7 - 9 - **Crazy Horse Stained Glass Annual Christmas Show,** Friday Noon - 7:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 368 Galway Rd. Hosts Linda McGillivray & Cheryl Lafferty serve up great gift ideas with painted & stained glass decorations along with unforgettable food & refreshments. Call 488-2860 for more info.

Nov. 9 - **Remembrance Day Service,** 11:00 a.m. at Kinmount Cenotaph, with lunch to follow back at the legion. Contact the Royal Canadian Legion at 488-3462 for information on donating a wreath.

Nov. 15 - **Kinmount & Area Artisans Guild** present their **Annual Christmas Bazaar**, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Kinmount Community Centre.

Please call me at (705) 488-2919 or e-mail me at lynne.kilby@sympatico.ca to share news or advertise an event or activity. See you in Kinmount!!!

What?? ... I Work Here....

A suspect in a bizarre robbery has been nabbed.

Police in Mesa, Arizona, allege that the man, identified as 21-year-old Marc Antoine Stovall, called a 7-Eleven store there on April 27, falsely claiming to be a new employee, arranged for training and then went to the store and was taught how to use the cash register.

Later that day, according to police, Stovall returned, purchased several items, including a roll of duct tape, but then said that he didn't want the tape.

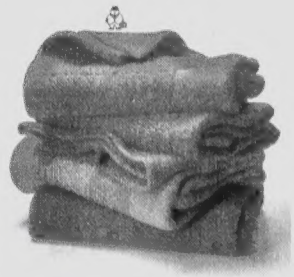
An hour later, Stovall came back to buy beer. When the clerk commented about his first name after he provided her with photo ID, police say that he pulled a gun, forced the woman into a bathroom and bound her with duct tape.

Stovall then went back out front, pretended to be the clerk and was helping customers when the real clerk broke free, emerged with a gun and Stovall fled with some cash.

Knitting For Warmth

1,000th

BLANKET CELEBRATION



in appreciation for the over 30,000 (8"X8") squares made for our blankets, we invite our knitters and crocheters to a:

Cup Cake Tea

Nov 4th. 1-4 p.m. Lower level. Minden United Church

Because of you someone is warm tonight.

We also welcome new contributors: See our blanket display and receive information.

Mary Trepanier, Project Manager, Highland Hills Outreach. 286-5173

Gala Gals Go Canoeing

by George Farrell

The one act play 'Gala Gals' was recently recorded by Jack Brezina for his Arts Week show on Canoe FM. I originally intended it for a story in the Voice, but it evolved into a short one act play.

Gala Gals is the unfolding of the evening of the second annual Arts Award Gala which was put on by the Arts council of Haliburton Highlands, as seen through the eyes of two pretty outrageous women characters.

Dorothy (Dorry) Comehither, and Honey Sweet are the two women in question. Dorry originally from the Highlands, but now living in the big smoke, has come home for a visit and has brought along her mentor Honey Sweet. Honey is the doyen of the arts, fashion, theatre and movie scenes in Toronto, and her published words have been known to bring big stars to their knees.

As somewhat of a laugh the two gals have decided to attend the Arts Award Gala in order to see how such an event "in the boonies" stacks up against their urban expectations. They're both very much prepared to comment bitchily and to enjoy themselves at the expense of the locals.

The whole thing got started when Voice editor Stephen Patrick called me and wanted me to do another story on the Gala. Last year Lea Harper and I wrote a piece together on the first annual Arts Award Gala. We did it as sort of a gossip piece, and we had a lot of fun with it. I didn't want to repeat that formula, but I still wanted to do something different and interesting, because the evening is really a lot of fun for self expression on all levels. What I ultimately decided upon was a look at the evening from the perspective of visitors from a big urban centre; in other words trying to look at the event through fresh eyes.

I guess you could say the piece got away from me, when I really got into the characters of the two women. Half way through I realized that it probably wouldn't fly as a piece for the Voice, but I submitted it anyway. Stephen phoned me and said incredulously that he couldn't print it as it was over 3000 words. I said OK, I'll send you something more conventional, which is what I did. But I guess Stephen is indirectly responsible for turning what was an article into a short play. The other person I'd like to thank is playwright Michael Fay. I sent him the story and asked him what he thought of its potential as a one-act play. He was very encouraging and urged me to develop it.

In a former existence I was a fashion photographer and downtown rounder and I used to attend all the parties and events for the fashion and film crowd in and around the Yorkville area of Toronto, when it was the place to be seen. Dorry and Honey are compilation characters culled from my experiences of seeing such people in action.

Dorry, because she is originally from these parts, and knows many of the award recipients, gives Honey a running commentary on personalities to be seen at the Awards Gala. Honey utters ribald remarks as the recipients receive their awards, and she also has a thing or two to say on the evenings various performers. She is amazed at the amount of masculine facial hair on display, and passes rude remarks on the rural fashion sense. Throughout the evening she becomes more and more inebriated as she is constantly sending Dorry to the bar for "drinkies".

It's a gently poke at the arts community, of which I'm a member, and it was originally intended for that very specific audience. I'm grateful to Jack who's given me the opportunity to widen that audience by the radio broadcast."

Jack Brezina had previously seen a reading of the play at the "All the Worlds a Stage," readings of original works, which took place recently at the RD Lawrence Place in Minden. Gala Gals was one of three plays that were read to appreciative audiences, who also got to experience and comment on works by Sheryl Loucks (Kashag), and Jerelyn Craden (Happy). Loucks and Craden, are both cast in Gala Gals, with Loucks as Dorry Comehither, and Craden taking on the role of Honey Sweet. I read the role of Nar, a commentator who moves the action along.

Both Sheryl and Jerelyn have been terrific, and there was very little directing on my part, as they understood their roles innately. I guess they both have a bit of Dorry and Honey in them, (though I'm not sure that they'd agree with that). The gals got into their roles from the very first time it was read at the monthly meetings of Playwrights Minden.

Sheryl, Jerelyn and I are members of Playwrights Minden which, in addition to "All The Worlds A Stage," also produced the highly successful Fringe Festival, held this past summer at the Wintergreen Maple Syrup Barn in Gelert.

A lot of people in the arts community, who attended the Gala Awards, are mentioned in Gala Gals, and I sincerely hope that they tune into Arts Week and enjoy it. It's fairly short, about 25 minutes, but it's packed with laughs and a bit of controversy. Without giving any more away the play touches on such topics as dress, hair, drugs, sexuality, political correctness, disability and pre-conceived notions. If that's not enough to get people to tune in I don't know what is. You can catch Gala Gals on Canoe FM, by tuning in to 100.9 tonight (Thursday Oct 30) at 6:00 p.m. ■

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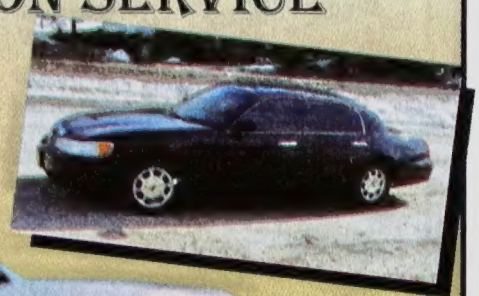

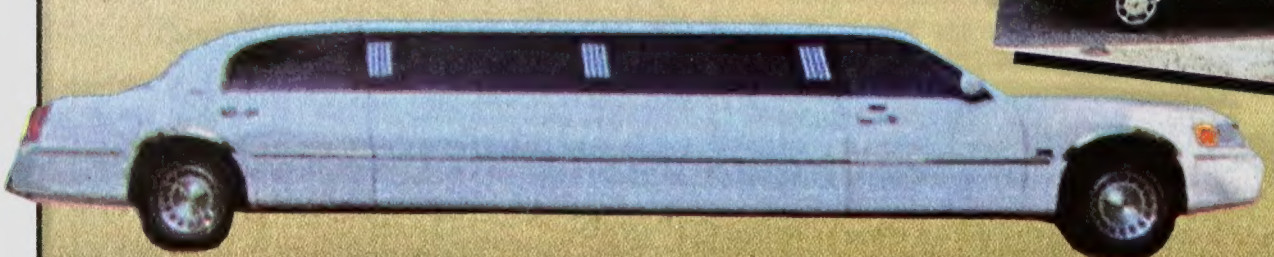

THEATRES, CONCERTS, WEDDINGS, CASINO RAMA

email: showtyme1@sympatico.ca

They've Been Featured on Entertainment Tonight Canada... Now the Husband and Wife Musical Duo, The Laws, Are on Their Way to Haliburton

The Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) is pleased to announce that their next upcoming concert to hit the Fall/Winter series will feature The Laws - a husband and wife team who have been called the best musical duo out of Canada since Harris and Gram Parsons and the Everly Brothers.

Prepare to be in store for a night of intimate performances at the Haliburton Highlands Museum as these two rising stars will give you a taste of their perfect harmony. Opening up for The Laws will be locals Albert Saxby and April Gates.

Tickets can be purchased for $15 before the show for adults or $20 at the door. Student tickets are only $15. Ticket locations include The York St. Internet Cafe in Haliburton and Golden Stationers in Minden.

For more information contact Sean Pennylegion at 705 457-1174 or go online to www.haliburtonfolk.com.

What You Should Know About The Laws

John and Michele are not a husband and wife team, but are also partners in music, performing as The Laws. This duo is getting ready to make a strong move for greater recognition in the Americana ranks in this country behind a typically ambitious touring schedule.

Vocally, wife Michele ranges from a soothing, plaintive, Emmylou Harris-like harmony ("Am I Still the One") to assertive, Martina McBride-style belting ("Getting Over You"), whereas John's rich, nasally tenor bears some semblance to that of the estimable Texas craftsman and New Traditionalist pioneer Radney Foster.

The Laws are nothing if not attuned to fans' sensibilities. Since they started performing together in 2000, they've played across the breadth and depth of their native country, and in 2003 they headed south, into the U.S. market, and specifically to Texas, where they had a life-changing moment at an open mic night.

Michele: "We went to a Sunday open stage, it was sponsored by a beer company and someone said, 'You guys gotta go to this,' so we went. And it was rowdy, like a honky tonk--and we're on the list, and we're like, 'Oh, no, they're gonna hate us.' We were just getting on stage and the host said, 'Don't play any cover songs.' So we played and sang an a cappella, did three or four songs, and everybody stops talking, they sit down, they listen, they love the music and then they line up to buy CDs. The host gave us all the money they had gathered. It was just the most incredible experience. And we realized these people were really, really into original music down here. It changed our lives."

Michele was born in Kingston, Ontario, and grew up doing "a lot of harmony singing" with her sisters at home. John originated from Chatham, Ontario, and he had a lifelong interest in music.

When John and Michele got together they moved across Canada to British Columbia where John started playing guitar and mandolin with roots country songwriter, Joe Charron.

When touring, John and Michele have become accustomed to living in their van (in fact, their personal possessions are in storage in Canada; they are, in essence, homeless), have made a commitment of sorts by putting down roots in Nashville, where they have rented an apartment and have signed a publishing deal with Born to Write, Inc.

For more about this strong, musical team visit their web site at www.thelaws.ca.

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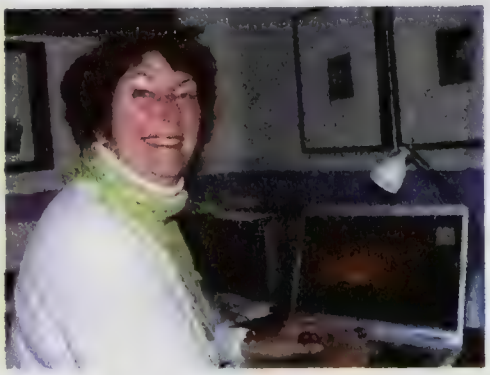
New Business *Introducing ...* Penny Obee Travel Consultant

by George Farrell



Although Penny Obee has been in the travel consultancy business for about eight years now, two things make hers a new business. For starters, most of the agents with a now defunct company, including Penny, transferred en masse to the take-over company Travel Professionals International in April of this year. Also, husband Bill, who was partners with Penny in their previous travel consultancy business, has left that end of things to Penny, as he concentrates on his volunteer work.

As far as Penny's clients are concerned however "the changes are seamless, and most of them either don't know or don't care about the changes, so long as I still give them the services that they're used to from me," she says. "And what I love is helping people find their dreams."

Helping people find their dreams is somewhat removed from Penny's former occupation as an education administrator. "We moved up from Unionville in 1975," she recalls, when Bill became the County Engineer. From '75 until '83 Penny stayed at home to raise their children, twins Janna and Hunter, now 35, and Meaghan 31. Penny ultimately would work as an administrator for the Trillium Lakeland District School Board for 10 years. She started teaching in Minden at Archie Stouffer in '83. She became Vice Principal at J.D. Hodgson in Haliburton during '91 and 92, and was the Vice Principal at HHSS "in '94 or '95." From there she moved on to become Principal at the Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School in '98. She 'retired' in 2001.

"I loved being an administrator, but it was time to go. However, I still wanted to do something that was meaningful to me." So she opened her travel business. "I started on Sept 1/ 2001," she says "and most people would not have picked it as the ideal time to start a business that depends on air travel."

"I wanted to start a career where I had some freedom, because both Bill's Mom and my Mom were ailing at the time, and we had to spend a lot of time with them. The Internet was still in its infancy but it freed me up to establish a home based travel agency. My office was at home and anywhere else I could carry the computer. The Internet allowed me to still spend time with the ailing Moms, and my clients didn't need to know."

One thing about Penny is certain: she is genuinely interested in people and loves to find them a perfect holiday. "I'm selling dreams, and nobody wants to spend good money on a bad holiday. I love finding out what they want to do on vacation and maximizing their experiences. Home-based agents need to have a parent company by law, and Travel Professionals International has incredible purchasing power and the best infrastructure for training and services, which enables me to offer my clients the very best in vacation packages and individual sales. Because the company is so big it has increased my networking power, and a lot of my success is due to networking, and traveling to shows and information and training sessions, which I do on a constant basis. I frequently drive to such places as Toronto, Whitby, Oakville, St Catharines, Cambridge, and Kitchener for that purpose, and it helps me in putting individual prices together for that perfect vacation, because I know who provides the best specific services. For instance I can find the most appropriate and cost- effective air travel, arrange for the client to be met at the airport, arrange the required tours with an experienced and dependable guide, and find those special little hotels in the country side. I'm also experienced in European train travel and car rentals. I love finding out exactly what my clients want and it's great to be fully confident in being able to get it for them."

"As far as packaged holidays are concerned, again, it's finding out what people like. Is it casual or elegant? Beach or the pool? Lots of activity, or a relaxing, quiet time? You really have to know your clients well in order to deliver the packages they want."

Many people nowadays are under the impression that if they go online to order their vacation it'll be cheaper. Such is not always the case according to Penny Obee. "In many cases it proves cheaper going to an agent or consultant, because we have the networking connections. My services are

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Penny Obee Travel Consultant Cont'd...

included in the cost of your holiday and in very few cases do I charge a service fee, and that's only when dealing with a company that pays me nothing. Plus, you have someone working for you if you should have any kind of problem. I do all the local Rotary Youth Exchanges and they often have problems, and when they contact me I do everything I can to help them."

Although she has many clients in the county "most of my clients are not in Haliburton. They're all over Ontario, in England, and just recently we've had clients from Bucharest. Because of modern technology I've never seen half of them.

Part of Penny Obee's business involves putting things together for special interest groups, like cyclists. She arranges for a guide, the bikes, vans, hotels, restaurants and the itinerary "and everything." She and Bill are recently back from leading a cycling group to Provence in France. "The route was challenging, but not difficult," she explains, "and it's just such a great way to see the country." She's already planning next years bicycle trip to Croatia and the Dalmatian Islands.

All this might seem like high-end stuff, but Penny also likes to find bargains for her clients. "Right now Cuba, the Dominican Republic and parts of Mexico are good bargains because the cost of labour is cheaper in those places, whereas in places like Antigua, Barbados, St Lucia, and St. Martin labour and infrastructure is more expensive. Of course off-season travel is much less expensive. The off-season in the Caribbean is October, November and early December. Off-season in Europe is in our winter, but there are no packages available until March or April."

Cruises are very popular, "but they're not cheap." Eastern Europe seems to be a trendy place to go right now, as is Australia and New Zealand, but these tend to be big-ticket items because of the distance and the corresponding cost of air travel. So, how has the declining Canadian dollar and the tough economic times impacted on Penny's business? "Well there's been no decline in business yet," she says cautiously. "It's been very busy. Clients maybe don't want to spend as much. They might opt for a 4 star (accommodation) in Cuba as opposed to a 5 star in Antigua. Companies do contracts well in advance so the fluctuation isn't here yet but it will eventually impact costs. But some of that will be offset by lower fuel prices. I won't really know for four or five months, though I can't advise people on trying to save by waiting or going on last minute flights, because if a flight is full, you can't get there."

The tough economic times not being an immediate problem Penny turns again to how she can best service her clients' vacation needs. "I've made it my goal to experience things I want to sell my clients, like hiking in Peru, which was murder, unless you're an experienced hiker. I've been to the southern coast of Spain to check out hotels and beaches, to China, Thailand and New Zealand. These aren't vacations and I pay out of my own pocket: it's work, but I love it because I get to find out about things first hand. I now know about train travel in Europe, and about the long, long, flight to New Zealand."

Penny Obee is also keenly aware of the special needs for persons with a disability and she'll find out the most accessible countries for people with a disability to visit, as well as arranging for wheelchairs at the airport, assistance on planes, and arranging for rooms on the first floor with large door openings which can more easily accommodate wheel chairs, as well as arranging for the appropriate transportation for passengers with a disability and their care givers. For those persons with a disability who have a fair bit of independence, Penny can also arrange for autos with hand controls.

Penny's business "has grown beyond anything I thought possible, so now I'm working with associates in order to keep up the levels of service my clients have come to expect."

Penny Obee, Travel Consultant can be reached by phoning (705) 489-3333, fax: (705) 489-1385, or online at pennystravel@sympatico.ca.■

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Tommy the Bear Dog

by Liz Danielsen

If Tommy had arrived on earth as a human he would without a doubt have been a little hooligan capable of inciting others to riot about the latest cause or an injustice done to a friend or brother. He'd be the leader of a little gang, always getting into mischief, but not really doing anything worth careful scrutiny by authorities. He's brash, mouthy and independent; he refuses to buckle under any form of totalitarian control and is in some sort of predicament every day of his life. I often find myself wondering if he doesn't suffer a bit from some special strain of canine small man's syndrome. But once you get past all that, you can actually see a small golden brown creature of uncommon loyalty and bravery.

Tommy has gathered a treasure trove of names over the years. He's registered as Tommy Watson because he displays traits that are quite similar to that of the male portion of my partner Jim's family. Besides that, he was acquired by Jim during an alcohol related incident so he came by the name honestly. When he's bad he's been called all sorts of names that can't be repeated, but he always knows we're talking about him.

Over the years Tommy has picked up a second language, having spent many winters holidaying on the Pacific coast of the Baja peninsula. For some reason, maybe because he has so much heart, the people there absolutely adored him. Chili farmers, fishermen and artisans alike call him Tomasito (little Tomas) and would laugh and wave when they saw him going by with half of his body hanging out the window of our jeep. In later years he came to be known as Don Tomas or El Jefe (the boss). Jim's twin grandsons liked to call him Senor Pipsqueak and others have called him Tom and The Tomster. The crazy thing is that he responds to all of these handles.

As to the extent of his independence, Tommy is a bit like a barking cat. He likes to stand on his own two feet and insists on doing things in his own unique way. He doesn't like to be coddled or held on your lap, but prefers to lie in the sun on the back of the couch basking like a tiny king surveying his realm. Oh, he'll tolerate you to putting him on a leash and responds to basic commands, but you can tell he's only humoring you, the condescending little rascal. One day he'll let you pick him up and the next he'll avoid you at all cost. Tommy's very direct in his inspection of humans and can often win a staring match paws down

Tommy is as smart as a whip. When we go on jaunts, our other dogs happily bound through the tall grass or careen through the trees sniffing out and savoring every stray smell. Tommy, however, spends his time calculating the angles. You can see him eyeing up the other two dogs, then look at us, as he tries to predict our destination and figure out the shortest or fastest route. Nine times out of ten, he's waiting for us in the very place that we planned to stop and collect them all to go home.

For a small dog of a breed that is often considered a bit 'poofty', he's very fast and loves being outdoors. I defy any dog lover not to break out in a grin to see him running into the wind, happy as a little clam. And being fast can be a really good thing, particularly when you need to get out of a tight spot. Tommy is very skilled at getting into tight spots.

Tommy has two brothers, but is definitely the pack leader. As the oldest, he maintains strict control over the activities of our lab Sam and retriever Mack with great finesse and even uses them to his advantage. He can often be seen tearing out the back door straight into the face of our neighbour's big Bouvier Bob and you can almost hear him say, "Watch out you big lout or I'll sick my brothers on you and they'll tear your heart out for breakfast." The other two always allow themselves to be sucked into his tiny vortex and follow in hot pursuit. They're the ones that end up in the dog house, figuratively speaking of course.

We've heard so many stories this summer of bears at dump sites, scrounging out of bird feeders, frightening people and even breaking into homes, in search of some warm and delicious smell that starts as a whisper in the air. Each time I hear a story about a bear I think of

Bear Dog cont'd... pg. 15...

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Tommy the Bear Dog

... from pg. 14

Tommy, my own tiny Bear Dog.

For many years, we lived on the banks of the McKenzie River, away from the core of civilization surrounded by trees. It was a common occurrence to look out our window and see wildlife of different sorts. We've had visits from rabbits and fox, moose, martin and ptarmigan, wolves and bears (both black and grizzly) and one day at dusk we even saw a lynx slipping soundlessly over crystal snow covered ground. Fortunately, these visits never caused any trouble which was extraordinary considering we've always owned a minimum of three dogs and sometimes more.

A few years ago, on an early summer day, Tommy started to kick up an awful fuss and was literally bouncing off the back window. Something was afoot. My friend Glenda and I looked out just in time to see three small bear cubs scrambling up a spruce not 20 feet from our back door. We couldn't see their mother anywhere.

We both scrambled to get a better look out back. I tried to warn Glenda about Tommy as she reached for the door handle, but it was too late. The slippery little devil was running hell bent for leather down the deck barking at the top of his rotten little lungs. This didn't bode well.

The next thing we saw was Tommy in hot pursuit of the biggest black bear I'd seen in a long time. I must admit, it was the strangest sight to behold; seven pounds of screaming terror in hot pursuit of a huge mother bear; not a place to be. It was a vision so contradictory to anything you'd expect but there was the bear running from Tommy like he was being chased by the Hounds of Hell. I think it must have been that shrieking sound that Tommy can sometimes make that would drive a saint crazy when he gets wound up.

Glenda was in tears, overcome with guilt for letting Tommy go. She'd always had a special spot in her heart for Tommy because she too was tiny but full of fire. Jim, fearing that Tommy was doomed, dashed out the front door, calling to him and trying to lure him away from the chase.

At that exact moment, it was like a light bulb came on and you could see the look come over the bear's face that said, "Heh! Wait a minute. There's something wrong with this picture." And the tables turned in a flash. The bear reared and whirled around and so did Tom, ripping straight back towards the house. Not exactly what we wanted to see, but on they came. Always having to have the last word Tommy swung around and narrowly missed being cuffed into the next century by a paw as big as he is. Luckily, a three inch tree trunk saved him from certain oblivion.

Up on the deck Tommy ran and this time we gladly cranked open the door just enough for him to slip in before we slammed it shut almost in the bear's face. She only stopped for a second, before giving a great harrumph and carried on to the other end of the deck and down to the tree where her cubs hung from limbs, snug and safe watching the scene below unfold.

The mother bear sat at the bottom of their tree and seemed to contemplate what had just taken place. Finally, she called to her cubs and it wasn't long before she managed to coax them down and they all sauntered off together into the trees, never to be seen or heard from again.

Tommy, on the other hand, had gained a bit of a reputation from the incident and became known in some circles as the Great Northern Bear Dog; a title that he retains to this day as the bravest (or wackiest) little dog in the family's history. ■

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A Show You Won't Want to Miss

The Hair Lounge Concert Series Returns With a Night of Fantastic Folk Music

The Hair Lounge Concert Series is back again, but this time around, shows will be held at The Fast Lane bowling alley in Minden.

Some fine, acoustic folk music will fill the air on Saturday, Nov. 8 when Rose Cousins of Prince Edward Island heads our way.

This event is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased from Mark Christiano at the Hair Lounge in Carnarvon or from The Fast Lane by calling 705 286-3900.

The Fast Lane is located on Hwy 35 at the Jug City lower level (formerly known as Minden Bowling).

About the Artist

By the end of every live show, Rose Cousins has you feeling something. Intimate vocals and warm guitar convey a passionate honesty that leaves you feeling like each of her songs could somehow belong to you. Since releasing her first EPs, Only So Long (2002) and Miles To Go (2003), Cousins has spent time carving a place for herself in the songwriting community in her adopted home base, of Halifax, NS, nationally and in the US.

With her distinctive stage performance, audiences can find themselves in tears one moment and fits of laughter the next. Her style is beautifully captured in her latest release and first full-length recording If You Were For Me.

While growing up on a potato farm on Canada's Prince Edward Island, Cousins developed her musical ear listening to whatever her mother had playing on the stereo, record player or to her own clock radio.

The second eldest of five children, Cousins would use her father's cassette recorder to capture music from the radio and movies on TV, and play it by ear on the old piano in the living room.

Though she journaled and wrote poetry as a young girl, she only ever composed instrumental pieces. Her first performances were singing with her mother and older sister in their small town church.

Rose left the Island to pursue a secondary education, and on her first day, made friends with a fellow resident who owned a guitar and set out to learn how to play. On her 19th birthday, she purchased her first guitar. Two years later, in 1997, Rose played her first open mic in Halifax, and proceeded to play the circuit steadily for the next four years.

On a mission to hone her skills, Cousins' spent hours learning the works of her growing influences and performing them live (Patty Griffin, Joni Mitchell, Ani Difranco, Shawn Colvin, Sarah Harmer), while starting on her own material behind the scenes. She performed her own songs, with lyrics, for the first time in 2001.

After working full time for six years and playing on the weekends, she left a full-time job in September 2005 and has yet to look back. It was a mere month after setting out on her own to pursue music solely, that she was approached by CBC producer, Glenn Meisner, after he heard her perform on a live taping for CBC Radio's Atlantic Airwaves.

Meisner and CBC Radio offered her support and what followed was the recording of If You Were For Me, a collection of songs cultivated from her rural upbringing, thoughtful observation, and lonesome heart.

A year after her big transition, she had not only a new record and a steady touring schedule, but two 2007 East Coast Music Award nominations: SOCAN Songwriter of the Year and CBC Galaxie Rising Star Recording of the Year. The strength of her music and her growing profile have placed her on stages with Canadian greats including David Francey, Lynn Miles, Joel Plaskett, Bob Snider, Ron Hynes, Luke Doucet and Chris Whiteley and well known US artists John Gorka, Cheryl Wheeler, Lori McKenna, Darrell Scott, Edie Carey, Mark Erelli, The Weepies, Jennifer Kimball, Catie Curtis and Eliza Gilkyson She has earned great respect among her peers is often called upon to lend her vocals to other recording projects.

In the summer of 2007 Rose performed at the Ottawa Folk Festival (Aug) and the Strawberry Music Festival in California (Sept).

She was the only Canadian finalist and winner in the 2007 Mountain Stage Newsong Contest, including the honour of performing on Mountain Stage.

Cousins entered the fall with four Nova Scotia and four PEI Music Award Nominations taking home two from each province: Best Folk Recording and Female Vocalist of the Year in PEI and Best Folk Recording and CBC Galaxie Rising Star/New Artist in NS. She also received a Canadian Folk Music Award nomination for Best Solo Artist.

In 2007, Rose joined with colleagues Jill Barber and Meaghan Smith at CBC Radio Halifax to record a collection of Christmas songs called A New Kind of Light – Songs of Christmas. The recording, in conjunction with a sold out benefit concert, helped to raise $161,000 for Maritime food banks.

She began 2008 with a win at 2008 East Coast Music Award for Female Recording of the Year and a full touring schedule.

By the end of 2008 Rose will have toured across North America and in the winter of 2009 will begin her next recording project.

Can You Help Save a Life?

Learn the Necessary Skills to Administer First Aid at Community Care Session

Are you familiar with how to administer first AID?

If not, you should definitely consider coming to the Community Care Drop-In Centre in Haliburton on Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Community Care strongly urges that volunteers attend this session in order to ensure they are up to speed with their First AID and CPR training. This event is open to the public if spaces are still available.

New for 2008: Community Care is asking for a nominal fee of $25 to assure your attendance and defray the costs of the workshop. The total cost to attend is $80.

For information call Brigitte at Community Care at 705 457-2941.

Trillium Lakelands
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Business Volunteer Needed

Trillium Lakelands District School Board has recently embarked on a program and accommodation review of Cardiff Elementary School and Wilberforce Elementary School due to declining enrolment.

As part of the review process a trustee-appointed Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) would like to include a local member of the business community.

If you are a member of the local business community, feel you could maintain an impartial perspective throughout the review, and are interested in joining the Cardiff and Wilberforce Elementary Schools PARC please submit a letter of interest to:

Kathy Verduyn, Director of Education
Trillium Lakelands District School Board
P.O. Box 420, 300 County Road # 36
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 4S4
or by fax to 705-324-4323

Application deadline: November 21, 2008

Please note: The Program and Accommodation Review process is expected to take longer than one year. Upcoming meetings include the following dates: December 3, 2008, February 11, 2009, April 1, 2009, May 20, 2009, September 30, 2009.

For more information please visit www.tldsb.on.ca or call 705-324-6776 ext 22104.

Kathy Verduyn / Rick Johnson
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Gooderham Resident Offers Radon Testing

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see or smell or taste. It's formed by the breakdown of uranium found in the soil, rock and groundwater under many of the homes in Haliburton County.

Did you know that four out of six homes in the Gooderham/Tory Hill area tested positive for the presence of radon gas this year? Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see or smell or taste. It's formed by the breakdown of uranium found in the soil, rock and groundwater under many of the homes in Haliburton County.

When radon gas escapes from the ground into the outdoor air it is diluted to low enough concentrations that it isn't a concern. But when that same gas enters an enclosed space like your home, it can accumulate in high and very dangerous levels. It breaks down into radioactive particles called progeny that can contaminate the air that you breathe. In your lungs these progeny break down even further into alpha particles that are absorbed into lung tissue causing lung cell death or damage and a high risk of cancer depending on the concentration of radon in the air that you breathe and the time you are exposed to that air.

Christine Atrill and her partner Robin Simpson, co-founders of FUME (Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration) have spent many months fighting for a cause with little return for their efforts, other than personal satisfaction; satisfaction in doing what they think is right, in educating people in the county about the dangers of uranium mining and exploration, of open pit mining as well as the importance of having your water tested for uranium content and your home for radon gas. Finally, Atrill has found a niche that suits her perfectly.

Atrill has started her own company called Highlands Radon Testing Services and she is offering radon testing in homes in Haliburton County, Bancroft and the North Kawarthas.

When asked how she ended up taking this turn in the road, Atrill said, "We'd been talking about radon gas at the open uranium meetings that we've been holding and I've been doing a lot of self education. We brought Bob Wood from Mr. Radon based out of Stouffville to several of our meetings to spread the word about the dangers of radon gas."

"I'd been thinking at the time what a big issue this could become and that it might not be a bad idea to offer a service to people in the area given the local need." Just when Atrill started to investigate what steps were required to be able to do testing, Wood from Mr. Radon actually pulled her aside and asked if she was interested in taking a course to become certified measurement provider. Talk about karma? Atrill said yes.

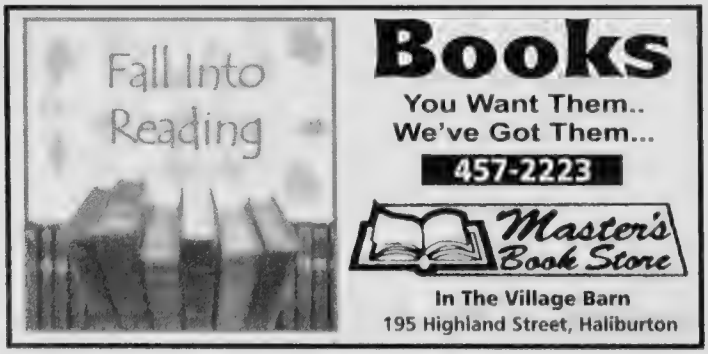
According to Atrill, Health Canada doesn't require certification at the present time to do radon testing, but she said something is in the works. She has decided to go ahead with certification training and will be taking the Radon Measurement Operators Course in Mississauga within the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, she has spent time with Wood and his wife and has been studying technical books that they have given her.

Health Canada is following the lead of the National Environmental Health Association in the United States. Radon testing has been actively promoted in the States since the early 1990's. Radon testing is a legal requirement when making any real estate transaction in the States but so far Health Canada has decided not to take that route. Atrill said, "American government bodies have been a lot more proactive in encouraging people to test their homes for radon. Finally, last year the Canadian government reduced the recommended mitigation level after an advisory panel on radon made a number of recommendations to Health Canada. Another recommendation that they adopted was to the building code which now includes mandatory radon mitigation systems in all new homes."

Wood got a Continuous Radon Monitor from the states which can be set up easily in anyone's home. Of course, Atrill decided that the first home she should test was her own. She had originally purchased a small charcoal home test kit, but was waiting for winter as that is the best time to test a home, when there is likely less air circulation. The monitor takes a number of readings every hour and establishes an average reading for the hour. That level of testing takes 48 hours to determine the level of radon gas within the house. Much to her consternation, Atrill found the readings to be over the top. They had three times the recommended mitigation level of radon in their home.

You might wonder just how radon gas gets into your home and whether you have to worry about it. During much of the year, the air pressure in your home is considerably lower than in the soil surrounding your foundation. The difference in pressures draws air and other gases in the soil, including radon, into your

Radon cont'd... pg. 19...



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Radon Testing Cont'd....

... from pg. 18

home through any opening it can find.

Atrill lives in an extremely uranium rich area, which is likely the reason for the readings she found in her home. She said, "While it's likely you will find radon in this area, the gas can travel underground and accumulate under houses in pockets, even if you're not in a uranium rich area. Bob (Wood) has found that one in eight homes in the GTA have tested high on the scale for radon."

Atrill said that unlike Haliburton County there are no radiometric maps of the GTA to indicate what is below the surface, but she believes that the government is presently doing mapping across Ontario.

"Radon is the second highest cause of lung cancer in the world," said Atrill. "At the lowest recommended mitigation level eleven out of 1000 people who no longer smoke or who have never smoked will get lung cancer. This is higher than the number of people likely to get cancer from second hand smoke and if you smoke and breathe in radon the chances are a lot higher. "

"Lung cancer is not primarily caused by the radon gas. It is the mid-point of degraded uranium where it changes into a solid called Polonium. That is what travels on the dust particles in the air and gets into your lungs causing cancer." (Atrill said Polonium is the substance used to poison the Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko in 2006. Litvinenko was the first known victim of lethal polonium induced acute radiation syndrome and marked the beginning of an era of nuclear terrorism).

Should radon gas be found in your home at levels that require mitigation there are a number of steps that can be taken and how quickly you respond depends on how high the concentrations are. "Mitigation is primarily a matter of ensuring good air movement and circulation in your home." There are also a number of recommended steps to reduce the risk of exposure in existing homes and preventative measures that can be taken for new homes.

Atrill will be taking readings and can offer suggestions or provide contacts who can assist with mitigation measures if a homeowner has a high reading. The short term test takes two days and costs $175. "You must have your house closed for at least twelve hours prior to the test. I'll come in and set up the monitor in an optimal location. The resulting information from the monitor is downloaded to a company in the States called Radalink that does the formal analysis of the data and sends a report back to the client indicating what the levels of radon are. This gives the homeowner an official reading that gives an indication whether mitigation is required or can be tucked away for use if the house is put up for sale at some point."

"It is important that testing is done in the winter, as that is the optimal time. There are other options available for testing like do it yourself charcoal canisters that should be available now at places like Canadian Tire or Home Hardware. Unfortunately, they have proven to be difficult to find right now. The cost for the kit is approximately $20 plus a $30 lab fee and shipping. Samples are sent to a lab in Woodbridge, Ontario."

According to Atrill, Health Canada will be launching a print and radio campaign within the next month, part of which will include a recommendation to do long term testing in homes, which involves a 90 days test. "A long term test gives a much better average reading which is important if the readings are at mitigation levels. Short term tests will give a homeowner an indication of whether they have extreme problems."

"There's no way to detect radon gas on your own and while the 48 hour test is recommended for all homes, for anyone living in a uranium rich area having a radon gas test is highly recommended. I want to encourage everyone to test as there is no way of knowing if it's there and two houses side by side can have widely varying readings."

"Anyone who has looked at the radiometric map of the Haliburton County area will see that there is a large land mass showing very high levels of uranium. The map is an indicator, but the only way to know is to test."■

Safe Driving in Haliburton County

Richard Van Nood Will Have You Prepared for Winter Driving

As temperatures start to drop and snowflakes fall, driving conditions tend to be adversely affected.

On Friday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Community Care Drop-In Centre in Haliburton, you'll have the chance to learn some crucial tips about driving safely from Richard Van Nood.

Van Nood will talk about pre-drive habits such as safety checks and proper driver set-up. The importance of seat belt use, how speed is a major factor in survivability in a crash and how car design can help you to survive a serious crash will also be discussed.

A review of some rules of the road (especially those that have changed over the years), risk perception and avoidance (defensive driving) and driving in poor winter conditions will be reviewed.

This course is highly recommended for Community Care transportation volunteers. Those who aren't volunteers are more than welcome to attend, but are encouraged to make a $5 - $10 donation to help cover costs.

Please register your space as seating is limited.

Call Community Care at 705 457-2941 or email Brigitte@community-carehaliburton.com.

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Saturday, November 29th. 10:30 a.m

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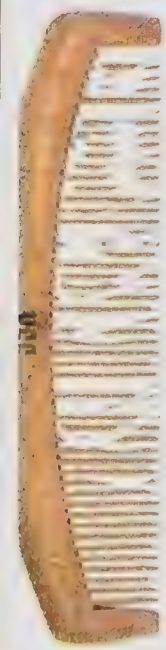
New Business *Introducing ...*

Ommmh an Oasis of Calm in Haliburton

By Terrance Gavan



Ommmh is mantra. Mantra suggests inner peace, tranquil thought and a mnemonic connection with self and with life. A mantra is a calming force that inspires rejuvenation.

Ommmh is also the name of a new beauty boutique in downtown Haliburton. And like Omm the mantra, Ommmh, the beauty boutique is a calming oasis, and a welcome island of tranquil bliss. It is actually located in the far recesses of the old Kozy Korner, right next to McKeck's Place on Highland Street. There are no vestiges of the old Kozy left in the dramatic makeover that is Ommmh the beauty boutique.

The first thing a visitor finds, in navigating the carefully appointed corridor to the hair styling area, is a mixture of low-key colors, burgundy, black and tan opening to a wide, encompassing and welcoming open-concept styling area. The muted background music is soft jazz and blues played at an acceptably low level. The music, like the hushed burgundy walls and black hardwood floor, adds to the notion of ease. There is a perception that a lifetime of thought went into the subtle design nuances present in Ommmh's inner sanctum. Perception in this case finds a vibrant anchor in reality.

Everything is placed just so, from the cushions on the couch to the smooth rounded stones in a vase and spread strategically on the coffeee table next to the settee. A soft leather manicure-pedicure chair stands on a pedestal in one corner of the room. Two styling chairs face a pair of identical large wood-framed mirrors.

It looks, well, like it just came off of a front page of an interior design magazine. And of course, it comes as no surprise then, to learn that the owner, Shawn Smandych has dabbled in Interior Design, among other things. Born in Calgary, Smandych says he's been styling hair since high school. "It's something that I've always done, but it took a while before I decided on a career," says Smandych. There was a lot of world to explore and Smandych had the time, talent and mindset to move into life at his own speed.

After high school he attended the University of Calgary as a music major but departed university after a year on a wild, whirlwind world tour to pursue a singing career and, ultimately, to explore opportunities, options and choices. He spent time in Sweden, Thailand, Australia, and Europe, activating an eclectic life as a jazz and fusion singer and interior decorator. At one point he even ran a costuming business. He settled down long enough in Sweden circa 1988 to attend college and obtain his degree in cosmetology and hair styling.

He made the move back to Canada from Sweden and landed in Toronto, at a time in the 90s when there were jobs and opportunities galore in the burgeoning television and movie industry.

Today he is comfortably ensconced in his chosen profession, a hair stylist, make-up artist and teacher with a long and award-winning background in the Toronto television and movie scene.

He has worked on individual TV projects, magazine shoots and was part of a team that won a Gemini for the Judy Garland Story, a miniseries that brought with it a plethora of challenges, putting together hairstyles running the gamut from the 1940s to 1970s. He has also worked on the sets of The Associates, Wild Card and Queer as Folk. "It may seem glamorous and exciting, but in reality it's very hard work and very repetitive," says Smandych. He recalls 14-hour days on the set of Garland, days that might encompass 500 separate 50's-era extensions on a cast of extras and stars. The next day he would switch gears and do another 500 60s era hair styles. And after years spent in the exciting but draining milieu of television, Samdych says that he began looking for new challenges.

He moved away gradually from the entertainment scene several years ago, preferring instead to concentrate on teaching and on his own expanding business at home, a concern which today includes a large bridal component.

"In the city I have a huge bridal clientele and I'm very busy with weddings right through the summer months," says Smandych. Indeed, his high-end bridal package, which includes both hair and make-up for wedding parties, led to a recent honor, garnering him industry recognition and the Best Wedding of the Year Award in Toronto for 2007. His bridal clientele is the fuel that allows him to drive the engine of this expansion to Haliburton, a move that will see him dividing his time between the GTA and the Highlands on a two-week rotation. (His hours at Ommmh in Haliburton are 11-7 pm Tuesday to Friday and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday every other week. Come November though, Ommmh will be open weekly, maintaining a full-time receptionist, a stand-up tanning bed and a full-time manicurist. There is also a broad range of gifts, leather handbags and jewelry on display and for sale at the Ommmh boutique.)

Smandych has a firmly entrenched patron list in Toronto, a clientele that runs the gamut from "five to 85," and from Bay Street lawyers to retired great-

Ommmh cont'd... pg. 23...

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New Beauty Boutique Has Growing Clientele

... from pg. 22

grandmothers. He also styles men's hair. "I work out of my home in Toronto and I'll continue to do that, because I have a large list of longstanding clients in Toronto," says Smandych. He and his partner do also maintain a residence near Gooderham, and that summer - and now winter - retreat actually provided the impetus for this venture in the Highlands.

"I started coming up here doing hair for a couple of ladies," smiles Smandych. "Then, all of a sudden there were 30 women reserving appointments for weekend cuts and style … it gave us an idea that maybe there was an opportunity here in Haliburton.

"Right now I'm here every other week and I'm happy with the response so far," says Smandych, who only last week found his Tuesday to Saturday appointment book at just over 50 percent booked. Not bad for this relative newcomer, who admits that he has been relying strictly on word of mouth advertising thus far into his Haliburton experience. He has given up his teaching duties at Complections International Ltd in Toronto to launch this ambitious project.

And, according to Shawn Smandych, opening the beauty boutique was like Ommmh, a mantra, part of a tantric natural outgrowth of his already very eclectic life. "I'm not here to step on anyone's toes," laughs Smandych. He's already participated in styling for a wedding, an on-site emergency call to the Delta Pinestone and his private client list is growing every week as word spreads. Part of that is due to his laid back style and his philosophy, which is neither small town nor big city.

Call it a Zen approach to hair styling. "People come to a beauty boutique to relax and to get away and I'm here to provide that," says Smandych. "That's why we're not called a salon … I prefer beauty boutique … I'm trying to provide a one-stop haven, a place where we handle the whole person."

He says that he will have a manicurist on board shortly, but he adds that it will be a person who ultimately subscribes to the overarching theme Ommmh as an oasis, a place to retreat from the shopping, the pets, the kids and the never-ending chores for a few flagrantly relaxed hours. Ommmh then, strives to be a calming place, with an atmosphere that is positive, fulfilling and soul-stretching.

As part of that blended harmony, Smandych also says that he will be carrying a full line of eco-friendly, biodegradable products, which include colors, shampoos and conditioners and Ommmh will steer clear of perms because of the harsh chemicals involved. The stand-up tanning bed will be arriving in mid-November and he explains that he chose the stand-up for sanitary reasons. All of the manicure and pedicure implements will be sterilized to medical standards and precision, and he says that he will offer all his clients the opportunity to purchase their own tanning and manicure products (including manicure utensil sets offered at cost), and that those products will be stored on site and individually-labeled, again in the interests of providing clients with an added measure of sanitized security.

Upcoming, just in time for Christmas, he's anticipating the launch of a Martini Makeover Night, an idea that he says goes over very well with his clients in Toronto. It will be an open night for women, affording an opportunity to have a martini or a glass of wine while sampling some of the latest in Ommmh's line of cosmetic products. It will all be accomplished under the watchful eye of Smandych and one or two of his professional makeup artists from Toronto.

"Martini Makeover Night is just an opportunity to get out of the house, have some fun and get to know a little bit about makeup," says Smandych. "It's a little private time with friends and a lot of fun." He will also be expanding his gift shop options, which now include handbags, jewelry and hair and make-up products.

Shawn Smandych says the best thing about this new venture is meeting and collaborating with new friends.

"I love the area and I'm loving the people up here," laughs Smandych, as he prepares to close down after another busy day at Ommmh.

And apparently, if his rapidly expanding client list and the buzz around town means anything at all, the feeling is mutual.■

STRESS BUSTERS

Quick Tips To Lower That Stress Level

"A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is by saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday."- JOHNATHAN SWIFT

Remind yourself that everyone is wrong from time to time, though not everyone has the courage and integrity to admit it. Not only will you gain self-respect by being able to honestly accept your fallibility and take responsibility for it, but doing so you may also earn the respect of others.

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Get Your Flu Shot, Not The Flu

Flu Season is Almost Here; Haliburton County Residents Encouraged To Get Vaccinated

Local residents who want to avoid being a target for influenza this winter are encouraged to roll up their sleeves for a flu shot.

Every flu season, health experts estimate as many as 10 to 25 per cent of Canadians may become sick from influenza. For Haliburton County, that is roughly equivalent to the entire population of Minden Hills Township falling ill from influenza.

With flu season almost here, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit encourages people to get their free flu shot.

"Influenza is a preventable disease, and the flu shot is your best defence at staying healthy," says Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, local Medical Officer of Health with the HKPR District Health Unit. "Don't be caught without your flu shot. As a doctor, that is my advice this winter for residents of Haliburton County."

Throughout the month of November, the Health Unit will offer free public flu shot clinics as follows:

· In Minden on Monday, November 3, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Minden Community Centre.

· In Haliburton Village on Tuesday, November 4, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion (Mountain Street).

· In Wilberforce on Monday, November 10, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Lloyd Watson Centre.

· In Cardiff on Monday, November 24, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Cardiff Community Centre (Monck Road).

· In Haliburton Village on Monday, November 25, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion (Mountain Street).

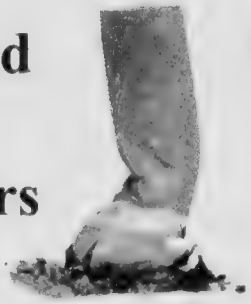
· In Norland on Thursday, November 27, from 3 pm to 7 pm at Pioneer Baptist Church (Hwy 35).

People are asked to take their Ontario health card to these clinics, which are offered for anyone over six months of age. Individuals who should not get a flu shot are infants under six months of age and those with severe allergies to eggs and other contents of the vaccine. More information about the flu shot is available by calling the Health Unit at (705) 457-1391 or visiting www.hkpr.on.ca .

According to the Health Unit, the flu shot can significantly reduce the risk of getting sick from influenza. People who get the flu shot may still contract influenza, but will typically find it milder than if they had not received the vaccine. During the 2007/2008 flu season, 135 people in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes had lab-confirmed influenza. The age groups most affected by the flu last year were those under the age of 14, and seniors 65 years of age and older. These findings do not surprise local health officials, since those over age 65 and the very young are most vulnerable to influenza.

S.T.O.P. SMOKING

- Free Nicotine Patches, Gum and Inhalers Being Offered to Smokers Who Want to Quit -



An innovative quit-smoking program is coming to the area this fall to help a select group of local smokers kick some butt.

The Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients (STOP) Study is a unique initiative in Canada. Local smokers who participate in the study will be counseled on ways to quit smoking, and will receive a free, five-week supply of nicotine patches or inhalers. Participants will be monitored over the ensuing months to see if the nicotine-replacement therapy has helped them become smoke-free.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, is teaming up with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team to offer the study in Haliburton County.

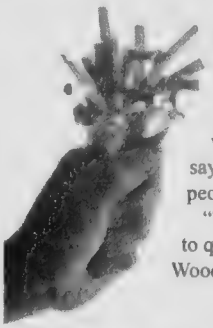
STOP sessions held in the area last year proved to be very popular.

"STOP is proving to be effective in helping people quit smoking, since it provides counseling and free access to nicotine replacement medication, which can be costly if you have to pay for it yourself,"

says Bridget McFarthing, a Health Promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit.

Smokers in Haliburton County who want to take part in the STOP Study will be screened over the phone, and must attend a three-hour information session. People can take part in the following session:

· In Haliburton on Wednesday, November 5, at 3 pm. To take part, call the Family Health Team at (705) 286-2500, ext. 261.



While smoking rates in this province are declining, approximately 17 per cent of Ontario residents continue to smoke. Smoking is the largest preventable cause of disease in Ontario, and costs the province's health care system approximately $1.6 billion each year. That's why organizers of the STOP Study in Haliburton County say it is essential to provide the support necessary to help people stay smoke-free.

"There are more choices than ever for smokers who want to quit, and we are prepared to help them," says Connie Woods, of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

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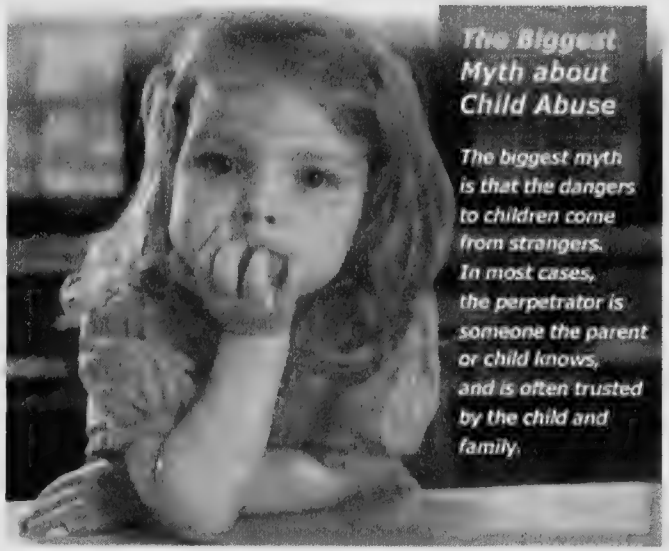
More Than 27,000 Children and Youth Were in Care of Children's Aid Societies



Child Abuse and Neglect Still a Major Problem in Ontario

Last year, 293 children and youth under the age of 16 were in the care of the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society for protection from suspected child abuse and neglect.

"In the latest Ontario Incidence Study (2003) there were 130,000 allegations of child maltreatment investigated – 58,000 or 44% of these cases found children were being harmed by their caregivers," said Executive Director, Hugh Nicholson. Ontario's Children's Aid Societies served more than 27,000 children who suffered some form of abuse or neglect last year.

Child Abuse is a serious concern for all Ontarians because many children are at risk of abuse or suffering from lack of proper care. When an adult, caregiver, family friend or stranger physically hurts or sexually molests a child that is child abuse. When a caregiver fails to provide proper care or deprives a child of support and affection that is neglect.

Everyone has an ongoing duty to report when they see or hear that a child is suffering from any form of abuse from a parent, caregiver or adult whether physical, emotional or sexual or if they learn that a child is living in appalling conditions or has no place to sleep or enough food to eat. All Ontarians have a responsibility to protect children by reporting suspected child abuse and neglect to their local Children's Aid Society.

Children's Aid Societies help children when a concerned citizen or professional calls to report their suspicions or a parent calls for assistance. When a call is made to a child welfare agency, a clinically-trained child protection worker can act immediately to save a child's life or can support families coping with challenges and stressful situations. Child welfare agencies become involved with families when there is a risk of emotional, physical or sexual abuse to a child, when children are exposed to domestic violence in the home, or when parents cannot provide proper care, housing and nutrition for a child. Children that are physically abused may have obvious bruises or marks on their body. Children abused emotionally or sexually may exhibit behavioural indicators and children who are neglected may be malnourished, appear unkempt or inappropriately dressed.

The Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society is launching the Child Abuse Prevention Campaign in October to remind the public about everyone's responsibility to protect children by reporting suspected child abuse because, as the theme of this year's campaign states, "kids shouldn't have to live with abuse." Ontarians are encouraged to learn more about the signs of abuse, how to recognize it and report it to their local Children's Aid Society at www.useyourvoice.ca.

CNIB Low Vision Clinic

CNIB (a United Way Member Agency) will hold a CNIB Lions Low Vision Clinic, Monday November 10th, 2008 at Queen St United Church, 35 Lindsay St N, Lindsay, from 10 am – 1 pm

CNIB staff will be present to provide vision health information, and to discuss available services and support for living with vision loss. Please join us and view a selection of innovative consumer product samples.

Please note: All Low Vision Assessments are pre-scheduled from a service waiting list.

For more information, contact CNIB Peterborough at 745-6918 or 1-866-699-1699 ext.5243.

FREE Separating Spouses Seminars

Are you dealing with separation or divorce? Why not take advantage in the upcoming free Separating Spouses Seminars.

Learn how to reduce the negative effects of separation for the kids. Learn about the benefits of mediation and reducing conflict. Learn about the legal and court process.

Choose from one of the following locations and dates:

Lindsay: Tuesday, November 4 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Peterborough: Thursday, November 20 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Port Hope: Tuesday, November 25 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. Free information is always available at the Family Law Information Centre located at the family courts in Peterborough, Lindsay and Cobourg. Call Four Counties Family Mediation at 760-9603 or 1-888-605-1393.

Crime Flashback

Death of a Beauty

by Max Haines

Ellen Hanley, at age 16, was a beauty. Her long honey blonde hair set off her sparkling blue eyes, the likes of which can only be found in Ireland.

Over in County Limerick, Ellen was a source of pride to the citizenry. No kidding, she was a real looker.

Times were tough in Ireland in 1819, but then again, times always seem to be tough in Ireland. Never mind. The Hanleys were a poverty-stricken family. As was the custom in those days, relatives helped out. In Ellen's case, an uncle, John Connery, adopted Ellen and they lived together in a small cottage in the village of Ballycahane.

One day, quite by chance, John Scanlon, the 22-year-old son of wealthy parents, was passing through Ballycahane. He took one look at Ellen and was totally smitten. John had never seen such a beauty. From that day on, he visited Ballycahane at every opportunity. Usually he was accompanied by his faithful servant, Stephen Sullivan.

Ellen's uncle was flattered that a gentleman was paying so much attention to his niece. After all, they were peasants. In Ireland of 1819, the gentry paid little heed to those not in their class.

Mr. Connery doted on his niece. He, too, recognized her unusual beauty. For years he had saved and scrimped until he had accumulated a nest egg of more than 100 pounds, which he intended to leave to Ellen so she could better her lot in life.

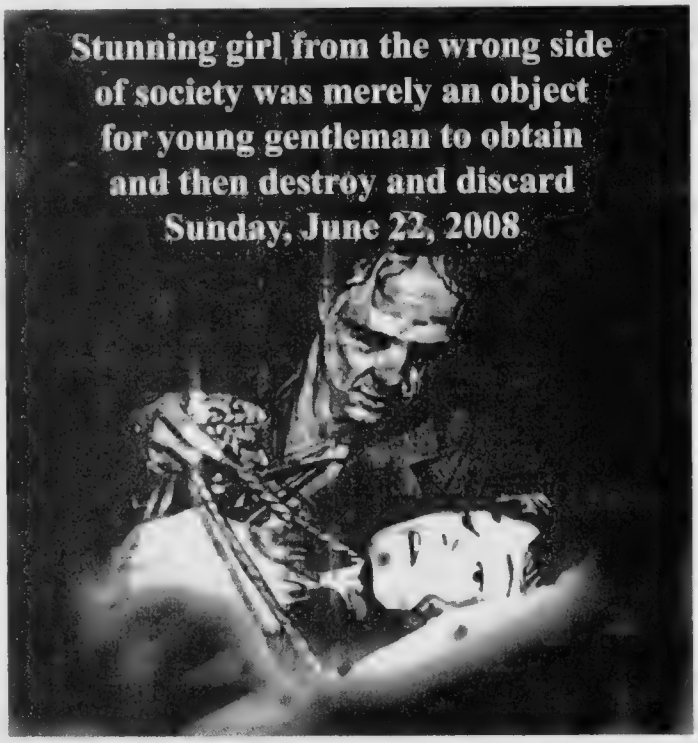
Uncle John was surprised one fine June day to find Ellen had skipped with every penny he had put aside for her and had eloped with that scalawag John Scanlon. She and John were supposedly married, but there is some evidence John paid a friend to pose as a priest and conduct a phoney ceremony.

The Scanlons spent the next three weeks in the vicinity of Glin, ostensibly on their honeymoon. Evidently, even on his honeymoon, John travelled with his trusty servant Stephen Sullivan. The three young people were often seen boating on the River Shannon. Sullivan rowed.

On July 13, the honeymooners, together with Sullivan, were at Kilrush when high winds made the crossing back to Glin a risky business. Several acquaintances, whose boatman had failed to show up for the return journey, asked them for a lift back to Glin. John felt that due to the weather it was doubtful their small boat would hold them all. Ellen insisted they give them a lift.

Now with a total of seven aboard, the party ran into difficulty, drifting downstream before making the opposite shore near Carrigofoyle, not far from the tiny island of Money Point. After landing, the four acquaintances, including one Ellen Walsh, who was well known to our Ellen, left and started the long walk back to Glin.

A few days later, John Scanlon and Stephen Sullivan showed up at Glin, but Ellen was nowhere to be seen. Ellen Walsh asked about her friend. John told her his wife was staying with his sister at Kilrush. Ellen Walsh couldn't help but notice Sullivan was wearing a plain gold band that she was certain belonged to her friend. There was some gossip. It wasn't natural for a man to show up with his servant and not his wife. Someone even said Sullivan's sister, Maura, was wearing clothing belonging to Ellen.



Eight weeks passed. Ellen's decomposed body was found partly buried on Money Point Island. Ellen Walsh identified the body. Suspicion quickly fell on Scanlon and Sullivan as the perpetrators of the ghastly deed. The body had been weighted down and had been tied with rope. Ellen had been bludgeoned to death.

A boatman, John King, came forward and identified the rope as having belonged to him. He was positive because he had spliced it in a distinctive manner. John told officials he had loaned the rope to John Scanlon, who had never returned it.

That just about did it.

One minor mystery was solved when experts stated that the body had broken away from the rope and had drifted with the tides. It had finally come to rest on the sandy shores of Money Point, where it had been partially buried by shifting sands.

Scanlon and Sullivan, feeling discretion was the better part of valour, went into hiding. John didn't get far. He was found hiding out at a farm near Ballycahane. He swore he was innocent and had only fled because the populace was so biased against him.

In March 1820, John stood trial for Ellen's murder. The evidence against him was overwhelming. He had lied as to his wife's whereabouts. He couldn't produce the priest he claimed had married them. His sister Grace and Sullivan's sister Maura both said he had given them clothing that had belonged to Ellen.

Then there was that devastating rope evidence.

John Scanlon was found guilty. Justice was swift in those days. Five days after sentence was passed, he was to be executed.

When the terrible day arrived, John, still protesting his innocence, was transported from jail to Gallows Green. This necessitated crossing a bridge.

As a mob followed the carriage carrying the condemned man, the horses pulling the carriage abruptly stopped. The driver whipped the horses, but they wouldn't budge. Soldiers escorting the grim entourage jabbed at the horses with swords. Nothing would move those horses over the bridge. Soon the mob started shouting, "It is the hand of God. He is innocent."

It would be nice to report that John escaped the gallows, but that didn't happen. He got down off the carriage and solved the problem of the stubborn horses by walking over the bridge to Gallows Green. Once on the gallows, with that hideous black hood over his head, John was asked by the hangman if he cared to confess before meeting his maker. John replied, "May the gates of Paradise be ever shut against me if I had a hand, act or part in the crime for which I am now about to suffer."

A moment later, the trap door sprung open and John Scanlon plunged to eternity.

Stephen Sullivan was apprehended a short while after John's execution. He, too, was found guilty of Ellen's murder. He confessed he and John had planned it all. John had ordered Stephen to commit the murder. It was Stephen who had beaten Ellen to death with the butt of a gun. John had tied the body with the rope and had helped get rid of it by weighing it down with a large stone. They had no idea the rope would break. Both men thought Ellen's body would never be found. John had desired both the beautiful Ellen and her money. After he had achieved his purposes, he wanted to be rid of her.

When Sullivan was executed, the hangman didn't ask for a last-minute confession.

He already had all the answers.

Reflections from SoulWind

By Brenda Peddigrew

Eye of the Birch

A few mornings ago I was sitting on the brown leafy ground of the overgrown woodlot on the south side of our house. I had discovered a small dip in the land, a comfortable hidden space surrounded by rotting stumps and green overgrowth. It was quiet there, the morning light patchworking the air. My breathing slowed and deepened, and I gathered the energies of the day before its distractions demanded most of my attention. In this sanctuary, the moment was all there was. Presence without thought.

Suddenly I became aware of a birch tree on the edge of my vision. When I turned to look, I was jolted by seeing that its bark was marked in such a way that it seemed to have eyes, ans that those eyes were seeing me. I felt myself to be the focus of a benign attention, a compassionate grace.

Then the "being seen" amplified into a larger awareness, and I became conscious of how little we humans ever consider that – as we look at nature – nature is also looking at us. That we seldom think of this signals how strongly we think ourselves separate from nature, that we are its managers and users and manly neglectful caretakers, but that we are somehow outside it, removed from it, above it. How then is it that our bodies are mostly water, that our lives begin as tadpoles swimming in search of a receptive egg, that we swim in salt water for nine months in a womb little different from a bear's or a groundhog's? And that – oh can this be true – when we die, our bodies turn back again into the good Mother, a rich humus of worms and soil, preparing to seed another expression of herself? "You are dust (soil) and unto dust (soil) you shall return" is perhaps the truest statement spoken.

The eye of the birch also reminds me that the stillness of animals is part of the seeing landscape, that they too are looking at us as we make our noisy way through their delicate habitat. I am realizing that the thought of being seen by them out of this stillness is somehow even more comforting than seeing them – this includes even the bear who was standing in contemplation by our back door the other night, just coming on dark.

Since that morning, I walk in nature very differently. Yes, when my small thoughts take over my mind, it matters little whether I'm in nature or on a busy street. But when I still that raucous crow of a mind, and open to receive the quiet, undemanding presence of tree and grass and every growing and dying thing surrounding me, I feel as if I truly am receiving something – a blessing. a word of encouragement, a reassurance that whatever I'm agitating about will pass. Nature has seen it all and is still here. More than that, I am carried on larger wings than my own and that is peace, however momentary. More and more, I settle into being seen in nature, rather than only seeing.

This is my gift from the eye of the birch.

***try this:** Go outside away from your house and into some small patch of the wild. Open to receiving from it, to being seen by it. Notice what happens.*

An Evening to Remember

Get Your Tickets Now for The Enchanted Masquerade Ball

Enjoy an evening of wine, fine dining and live entertainment at The Enchanted Masquerade Ball on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Wigamog Inn Resort in Haliburton.

Presented by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation and Heritage Ballet, this is an annual classy fundraiser for the HHHSF's Reach for the Future Campaign. In previous year's, this fundraiser has been known as "A Classy Cocktail Caper".

Local Heritage Ballet dancers will be performing selections from The Nutcracker and you'll find many great silent auction items such as: a leather La-Z-Boy recliner, gold and platinum Maple Leaf tickets, jewellery, spa products and much more.

A wine tasting challenge will also be a part of this year's fundraiser. In this competition, you'll get to taste different wines and from there you'll have to identify what it is you are tasting. Prizes, of course, will consist of wines.

Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. and dinner will start at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $100 per person. Get yours by calling by the HHHS Foundation at 705 457-1580 in Haliburton or 705 286-1580 in Minden. The Foundation is still accepting items from the community for the auction.

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How to Survive to the End of a Horror Movie

When it appears that you have killed the monster, NEVER check to see if it's really dead.

Never read a book of demon-summoning aloud, even as a joke.

Do not search the basement, especially if the power has gone out.

If your children speak to you in Latin or any other language which they should not know, shoot them immediately. It will save you a lot of grief in the long run. However, it will probably take several rounds to kill them, so be prepared. This also applies to kids who speak with somebody else's voice.

As a general rule, don't solve puzzles that open portals to Hell.

If you're searching for something which caused a loud noise and find out that it's just the cat, GET THE HELL OUT!

If you find a town which looks deserted, there's probably a good reason for it. Don't stop and look around.

Don't fool with recombinant DNA technology unless you're sure you know that you're doing.

If you're running from the monster, expect to trip or fall down at least twice. Also note that, despite the fact that you are running and the monster is merely shambling along, it's still moving fast enough to catch up with you.

If your car runs out of gas at night on a lonely road, do not go to the nearby deserted looking house to phone for help. If you think that it is strange because you thought you had half of a tank, shoot yourself instead. You are going to die anyway, and most likely be eaten.

And Most Importantly:
When trying to escape from a serial killer, never run UPstairs.

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Models versus Real Women

Facts On Figures :

There are 3 billion women who don't look like super models? And only eight who do.
Did you know Marilyn Monroe wore a size 14?
If Barbie was a real woman, she'd have to walk on all fours due to her proportions!
The average woman weighs 144 pounds, and wears between a size 12-14.
The Models in the magazines are AIRBRUSHED!!! - NOT Perfect!!
A psychological study in 1995 found that 3 minutes spent looking at a Fashion Magazine caused 70% of women to feel depressed , guilty and SHAMEFUL!
Models 20 years ago weighed 8% less than the average woman. Today they weigh 23% less.

Beauty of a Woman
The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears,
The figure she carries, or the way she combs her hair.
The beauty of a woman must be seen from her eyes,
Because that is the doorway to her heart,
The place where love resides.
The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole,
But true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul.
It is the caring that she lovingly gives,
The passion that she shows.
The beauty of a woman
With time, only grows..

SUBARU

The 2009 Subaru Forester.
AJAC's Best New SUV/CUV (under $35K).

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Japanese SUVs just got a little sexier.
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Subaru is proud to announce that the all-new, totally redesigned 2009 Subaru Forester has been named the AJAC Best New SUV / CUV of the Year (under $35k). But it wasn't just our sleek, sexy new design which caught the judges' eyes. With features including symmetrical full-time All-Wheel Drive, legendary horizontally opposed Subaru BOXER engine, and remarkable fuel efficiency, the Forester is more than just a pretty face. Learn more at subaru.ca.

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World's Largest Pumpkin

Joe Jutras from North Scituate, Rhode Island, brought a 1689 pound pumpkin to the Topsfield Fair GPC weigh-off in Topsfield, Ma. on September 29, 2007. His new world record beat the previous year's world record by 187 pounds. Last year's world record holder was Ron Wallace with a 1502 pound pumpkin at the Rhode Island Weighoff on October 7, 2006.

Pumpkin History

References to pumpkins date back many centuries. The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word for "large melon" which is "pepon." "Pepon" was nasalized by the French into "pompon." The English changed "pompon" to "Pumpion." Shakespeare referred to the "pumpion" in his Merry Wives of Windsor. American colonists changed "pumpion" into "pumpkin." The "pumpkin" is referred to in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater and Cinderella.

Native Americans dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. They also roasted long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and ate them. The origin of pumpkin pie occurred when the colonists sliced off the pumpkin top, removed the seeds, and filled the insides with milk, spices and honey. The pumpkin was then baked in hot ashes.

History of the Jack-o-Lantern

People have been making jack-o-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets are used. Immigrants from these countries brought the jack o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, make perfect jack o'lanterns.

World's Largest Pumpkin Pie

The current world record stands at 2,020 pounds (after baking). It was prepared and baked by the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers at New Bremen, Ohio. This huge pie was made on October 8, 2005. This world record pie is recognized by Guiness World Book of Records.

Most Lit Pumpkins

For years, the folks in Keene, New Hampshire held and routinely broke this record. In 2006, their record stood at 28,952 lit pumpkins. Yes, the pumpkins must all be lit at the same time in the same place.

On October 26, 2007, Boston Ma. shattered this record with 30,128 lit pumpkins! Rumor has it, they are still "glowing" over this feat. The record was part of a fundraiser for Camp Sunshine, raising over $250,000.

Will the record be broken again? Sure!!!!!

Pumpkin Chuckin (Distance)

Using an air cannon to propel a pumpkin thousands of feet is called "Pumpkin Chuckin". The world record stands at 4,4091 feet. A couple of years ago, we were working with a pumpkin chucker to further the record. The air cannon is not the problem. The trouble is a pumpkin can not stand up to the G forces involved. Unfortunately, the pumpkin can not be frozen.

Did you know that pumpkins are not a vegetable - they are a fruit! Pumpkins, like gourds, and other varieties of squash are all members of the Cucurbitacae family, which also includes cucumbers, gherkins, and melons.

Legends Of The Fall

It has begun
The leaving
First fluttering birch leaves
Floating down
Telltale tokens on my dock
More timely than any modern clock
That summer's gone
Though trees on the far shore
Have not done
Their cameleon magic trick
Legends yet to come
Of October's glorious panoramic bloom
Yellow, gold, orange, red, maroon
Casts the true autumnal spell
That leaves on the ground
A thick golden gown
Before wondrous winter whitening soon
As season swiftly succeeds season's turning
Amid the smoke from fires burning.

By Antonia Paul

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Jan 12th, 2009 – April 24, 2009:	In School Training
April 27th, 2009 - June 19th, 2009:	Work Placement

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Level 1 Cook Apprenticeship Training
Academic Upgrading
Employment Skills Training
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8-week Work Placement

SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

Space is limited to 16 Participants

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This Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program is funded by the Government of Ontario

Good Intentions are not always the Best Results!

with Susan Lee

Something I have seen over my time as a financial planner and even before that, working at financial institutions, is a person adding a child or children as a joint owner to their asset, house, GIC, bank account for example. This is done in most cases for two reasons; first, to keep the asset value out of the estate to help reduce the probate fee charges and second, is to facilitate, speed the transfer of the assets to the children. Again I am on repeat mode, we are all individuals and one idea does not fit all.

The down side to adding a child joint to your home is the loss of capital gain exemption of a principle residence. For example, your house is worth 100,000.00 and you add your son on as joint owner with right of survivorship and at the time of your estate the house is worth 200,000.00. The value up to adding your son is tax exempt as your principle residence but only 50% of 100,000.00 gain after that is considered a principle residence for you and if your son has a home of his own his 50% of the gain since his name was added will be taxable when the property is sold. In this example the probate fee is much less than the capital gain tax for your son.

A few more things to consider is that once you add a child to the house it could be considered a family asset in the event of that child's divorce and it might also be open to creditors of that child. Please review with you lawyer first

When someone adds a child to their asset, the idea is that your child will out live you. Unfortunately this is not a guarantee and sometimes even the best laid plan falls apart. Yes you could just add someone new if health permits.

No one really likes paying government fees and taxes but we need them to live in a great Country like Canada, but no one wants to pay more then they have to. Unfortunately, sometimes our goal of saving a fee like probate fees (often only a few thousand dollars), over shadows setting up a proper will and estate/tax plan. With a will you can cover all of the "what if's" of life. Such as what if I out live my children, how do I want my asset to be disbursed in this unfortunate situation? An additional complication is second marriages and extended families. I always recommend placing your goals for your assets first and then make them as tax efficient as possible such as having investments through an insurance company (I have discussed in early articles) that are similar to GIC's and mutual funds and are in your name but they allow you to name beneficiaries to cover off the "what if's" in life, avoid probate, and paid out to your beneficiaries in 30 days. Another tax savings is naming a charity in your will to create a donation tax receipt, but it must be part of your will as your executor cannot make that decision afterwards.

Take advantage of professionals, lawyers, accountants and financial planners to protect your estate.

I do what's best for you!

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It's the Law

It's the Law

In Zion, Illinois, it is against the law to give a lighted cigar to a dog or cat!

At one time in Minnesota, if a man hugged or kissed a young woman in front of her parents, it was considered a binding proposal of marriage!

In Orangeville, Ontario, it is against the law for a farmer, while he is around cattle, to wear socks with holes in the toes!

It was once illegal in Denver, Colorado, for acrobats to perform on the sidewalks any acrobatics that would frighten the horses!

A law in Green Bay, Wisconsin, states that owners of cars that drip oil on public roads be fined a dollar per drip!

In New York State, it's against the law to go fishing in your own back yard on Sundays!

Trivia Test

1. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who said, "Anger as soon as fed is dead -- 'Tis starving makes it fat."
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which well-known French actress appeared in Chanel No. 5 commercials in the 1970s?
3. TELEVISION: What kind of car did "Starsky and Hutch" drive?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many yards are in a bolt of cloth?
5. MOVIES: Which recently released movie was directed by Joel and Ethan Coen?
6. AD SLOGANS: What company "has a way with b-o-l-o-g-n-a"?
7. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing aspirin?
8. ART: Where is the Whitney Museum of Art located?
9. GEOGRAPHY: On which continent is the Great Sandy Desert located?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What are the ingredients in a Rickey cocktail?

Answers

1. Emily Dickinson 2. Catherine Deneuve 3. Ford Gran Torino 4. 40 yards 5. "Burn After Reading" 6. Oscar Mayer 7. Felix Hoffmann 8. New York City 9. Australia 10. Gin, lime juice and soda water

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

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Lange on the Law

Donald Lange

by Donald J. Lange
Barrister & Solicitor

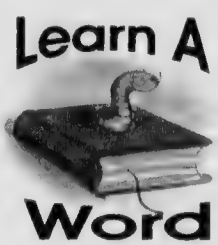
SLAPPs

In Canada and in the United States, there is a growing phenomenon of abusive litigation called SLAPPs. A SLAPP is an acronym, or an abbreviation, for a strategic lawsuit against public participation. These lawsuits are usually libel and slander actions brought against crusading individuals or public interest groups by big companies to stifle public criticism about them. Some SLAPPs go even further. One gun manufacturing company, for example, sued several public interest groups for millions of dollars alleging that they intentionally interfered with its contractual relations with customers. When the big companies resort to the courts, the public criticism often ceases because the issues are now before the court. Where necessary, injunctions are sought to quiet the bad publicity. The corporate goal of SLAPPs is to intimidate and eliminate critics, deplete the critics' financial resources, and stall the issues in the court system. The court system is used to thwart the rights of citizens to speak out publicly about corporate behaviour or corporate manufacturing of certain products, such as guns.

Judges have always had an inherent power to control abusive litigation but this power appears not to be working with SLAPPs. Most judges are extremely reluctant to deprive litigants from being heard on the merits (a full hearing of the case) and so they naturally tend not to intervene in a SLAPP to dismiss the lawsuit at an early stage on the basis that it is a frivolous or vexatious lawsuit.

In the United States, more than half of the states have enacted anti-SLAPP legislation to stop this lawsuit trend by permitting the courts to promptly dismiss any lawsuit that is clearly abusive in nature. Among the new tools given to the courts is the procedural ability to shift the burden of proof from the defendant to the plaintiff if the abuse of the court system is obvious. In other words, the big company must prove why the SLAPP it has launched should not be dismissed right away. In Canada, some of the provinces have attempted to introduce their own ant-SLAPP legislation but without much success. Anti-SLAPP Bills were introduced in New Brunswick in 1997 and in Nova Scotia in 2003 but were never passed. British Columbia enacted anti-SLAPP legislation in 2001 but it was repealed a few months later.

In the next column, I will be talking about employment law.



Scuttlebutt

\ske-t-l-bet\ *n*: rumor, gossip.

After he retired, Bob regularly stopped by his old office to visit his buddies and catch up on the latest ***scuttlebutt*** about his former coworkers.

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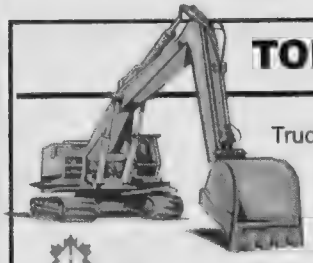

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The Winner of the Bowling Contest in the last Communicator is Elinor Kernohan, of Minden

Bad Predictions
Can I Take That Back Now....

It will be years - not in my time - before a woman will become Prime Minister.
Margaret Thatcher, future Prime Minister, October 26th, 1969.

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Girl's bow is missing. 2. Collar is different. 3. Boy's pencil is gone. 4. Name on briefcase is different. 5. Shrub is missing. 6. Picture on box has changed.

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Just read all the ads and keep an eye out for Sam – The Advertising Man. We will be hiding a few Sams in various ads throughout the publication, so look for more than one. Once you think you have found all the Sams you can, write down how many you spotted, in what ads, the publication date, your name, address and telephone number, and mail them, email them or fax them to the Highlands Communicator. The first correct answer pulled from entries received wins $50! It's that easy and it's fun too!

There were 8 sams in the last issue. They were in the following ads: Teddy Time, Country Pickins, The Pepper Mill, Haliburton County Development Corp., Minden Home Hardware Building Cenre C.J. Vinyl Graphics, Viceroy, David A.P. Shapiera

The Winner of last issue's spot sam contest is: Lisa Corby of Minden!!

SERVICE DIRECTORY

In SIRCH of the Perfect Christmas

First Annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Bazaar Fundraiser at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School

Over 30 amazing vendors will make their way to the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Saturday, Nov. 8 and Sunday, Nov. 9 for SIRCH's first annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Bazaar.

Some of the incredible gifts that you'll be able to purchase will include a large selection of arts and crafts pieces from the local community.

On top of all the great gift ideas you'll find, there will be door prizes, gift wrapping, face painting, a children's craft corner, live musicians, festive home decorating tips and of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

In SIRCH of the Perfect Christmas will run on Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

There will be lots of free parking, wheelchair access and refreshments for those who attend.

Christmas shopping can be fun, especially when you're out SIRCH-ing for the perfect gift(s). There will be something for everyone!

A few spaces are still available for vendors, so those interested are urged to call Heather at 705 457-1742 ext 44 or email heather_smith@sirch.on.ca.

The Minden & District Horticultural Society to Host Annual Meeting

The Minden & District Horticultural group will come together on Tuesday, Nov. 4 for their annual elections and meeting. This will be followed by Anne Neave demonstrating Christmas door decorations and there will plenty of refreshments available to quench your thirst.

Everyone is welcome to attend and join The Minden & District Horticultural Society for this event.

For more information call Jessie at 705 286-4141. To learn more about the group please visit www.gardenontario.org/site.php/minden.

Grab an Ancestor for Show & Tell

You won't want to miss one of the most popular meetings of the year… and everyone is welcome to attend. On Wednesday, November 12th the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group meeting will be held in the Common Room (please enter by rear door) of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Doors open at 6pm. Elections for the 2009 Executive at 6:30pm.

The theme of the regular meeting starting at 7pm will be "Bring an Ancestor" for "Show & Tell" - non-members and members alike are invited to bring an artifact, memento, photograph, question, whatever, and present it to the group for 5-10 minutes. This will be your opportunity to see the completed "Hearts of the Highlands" quilt, if you have not already seen it as it will be one of the Show & Tell items.

This is one of the most popular meetings of the year. Everyone welcome - no charge. Coffee and home-made cookies available. . Bring your loose change and/or a new or gently-used item to contribute to the table, for the "Bring & Win" raffle. For more information contact Gail Leach-Wunker at 286-2225 or mbl@halhinet.on.ca.

Strange BUT TRUE

It was Andrew Jackson Young, American civil-rights activist, former U.N. ambassador, congressman and mayor of Atlanta, who made the following sage -- and disturbingly accurate -- observation: "Nothing is illegal if 100 businessmen decide to do it."

Those who study such things claim that by the time the average American reaches the age of 20, he or she has been exposed to more than a million advertisements.

The United States has more dogs than any other country in the world, followed by Brazil in second place and China in third.

Just to see what would happen, a group of scientists gave various drugs to spiders. The arachnids that were given caffeine created webs with random tangles, making them useless for catching insects. Interestingly, the ones that were given LSD created extremely neat webs. It's unclear whether the scientists performed this experiment for research or just for fun.

Moscow has more billionaires than any other city in the world. And, except for one -- the mayor's wife -- they're all men.

The next time you're heading to Boston for a little R and R, you might want to consider stopping by a rather unusual attraction. The Museum of Bad Art describes itself as "the world's only museum dedicated to the collection, preservation, exhibition and celebration of bad art in all its forms."

The word "wedlock" originally referred to money given to the groom by the bride's father (presumably for taking the girl off his hands).

Have you ever experienced xerophthalmia? If you're like most people, you probably have, but it's not usually a condition to be terribly concerned about. Xerophthalmia is simply a fancy way of describing an abnormal dryness of the eyes.

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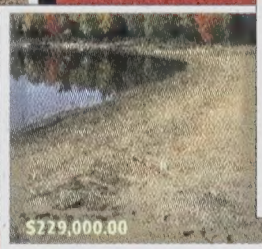

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